

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ An image receiving device according to
~~claim 22, comprising:~~

an image sensor repeatedly receiving a light from an object and generating images of
the object;

a differential image generating unit configured to generate a differential image from at
least two images;

a detector detecting a change cycle or an intensity of an external light;

an evaluation unit configured to evaluate an influence of the external light and to
derive an optimal timing in which a minimum influence of the external light is attained; and

~~wherein said~~ a controller controlling a timing of receiving the light of the image
sensor, depending upon the optimal timing derived by said evaluation unit, and repeatedly
~~synchronizes~~ synchronizing a term of two timings with the change cycle of the external light
by shifting the term into the change cycle by a unit of predetermined phase difference.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 23,
wherein said image sensor respectively receives the light from the object at the two
timings whenever the term of the two timings is shifted into the change cycle by the unit of
predetermined phase difference.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 24, wherein said evaluation unit respectively calculates a difference between two storage quantities of the external light received at the two timings of each shifted term, and selects one difference which is smallest from all differences of all shifted terms.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 25, wherein said evaluation unit selects the one difference if at least one of the two storage quantities from which the one difference is calculated is below a threshold.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 25, wherein said evaluation unit decides a shifted term of two timings of the two storage quantities from which the one difference is calculated as the optimal timing.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 27, further comprising a light source configured to emit a light to the object.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 28, wherein said controller controls said light source to emit the light in synchronization with one of two timings of the shifted term.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 29, wherein said image sensor respectively receives the light from the object at the two timings of the shifted term, and generates two images from two received lights.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 30, wherein said differential image generating unit calculates the differential image between the two images as a reflected light image of the object.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~An image receiving device ~~according to claim 32,~~ comprising:

a light source emitting a light to an object;

an image sensor repeatedly receiving the light reflected from the object and generating images of the object;

a differential image generating unit configured to generate a differential image from at least two images;

a detector detecting a change cycle or an intensity of an external light superposed on the light from the light source;

an evaluation unit configured to evaluate an influence of the external light and to derive an optimal timing in which a minimum influence of the external light is attained; and

wherein said a controller controlling a timing of receiving the light of the image sensor and a timing of emitting a light of the light source, both depending upon the optimal timing derived by said evaluation unit, and repeatedly synchronizes synchronizing a term of two timings with the change cycle of the external light by shifting the term into the change cycle by a unit of predetermined phase difference.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 33, wherein said image sensor respectively receives the light from the object at the two timings whenever the term of the two timings is shifted into the change cycle by the unit of predetermined phase difference.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 34, wherein said evaluation unit respectively calculates a difference between two storage quantities of the external light received at the two timings of each shifted term, and selects one difference which is smallest from all differences of all shifted terms.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 35, wherein said evaluation unit selects the one difference if at least one of the two storage quantities from which the one difference is calculated is below a threshold.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 35, wherein said evaluation unit decides a shifted term of two timings of the two storage quantities from which the one difference is calculated as the optimal timing.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 37, wherein said controller controls said light source to emit the light in synchronization with one of two timings of the shifted term.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 38, wherein said image sensor respectively receives the light from the object at the two timings of the shifted term and generates two images from two received lights.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The image receiving device according to claim 39, wherein said differential image generating unit calculates the differential image between the two images as a reflected light image of the object.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): An image receiving method having a measuring mode to detect an influence of an external light and a normal mode to receive images, with an image sensor repeatedly receiving a light from an object and generating images of the object, and a differential image generating unit configured to generate a differential image from at least two images, the method comprising:

detecting a change cycle or an intensity of an external light₁ in the measuring mode;
deriving an optimal timing in which a minimum influence of the external light is attained₁ in the measuring mode; [[and]]

controlling a timing of receiving the light of the image sensor₁ depending upon the optimal timing₁ in the normal mode; and

repeatedly synchronizing a term of two timings with the change cycle of the external light by shifting the term into the change cycle by a unit of predetermined phase difference, in the normal mode.